

Senate Bill No. 1488

CHAPTER 690

An act relating to the Public Utilities Commission.

[Approved by Governor September 22, 2004. Filed
with Secretary of State September 22, 2004.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1488, Bowen. Public Utilities Commission: public information.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities. Existing provisions of the Public Utilities Act require every public utility to furnish reports as the commission may require. Existing law, with certain exceptions, requires each electrical corporation subject to regulation by the commission to submit prescribed procurement plans for review and approval by the commission. Existing law requires the commission to adopt procedures to ensure confidentiality of market sensitive information in proposed procurement plans or resulting from, or related to, procurement plans approved by the commission, including procedures for access by the Office of Ratepayer Advocates and consumer groups that are nonmarket participants. No information furnished to the commission by a public utility, except those matters specifically required to be open to public inspection, are open to public inspection or made public except by order of the commission or a commissioner in the course of a hearing or proceeding.

This bill would require the commission to initiate proceedings to examine its practices with respect to these confidentiality requirements and the California Public Records Act to ensure that these practices provide for meaningful public participation and open decisionmaking.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Public Utilities Commission shall initiate a proceeding to examine its practices under Sections 454.5 and 583 of the Public Utilities Code and the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code) to ensure that the commission's practices under these laws provide for meaningful public participation and open decisionmaking.

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